

Progress Report

To: Natalia Deardorff, Department of Water Resources

From: Robert Stein, City of Newport Beach

Re: Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan – Newport Bay Watershed - DWR Agreement Number 46-0000-4498

Progress Report #7

Report Period: April 1 to October 31, 2008

Date: December 2, 2008

Under this grant, two primary documents are to be produced:

1. an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the entire Newport Bay Watershed, and
2. a Harbor Area Management Plan (HAMP).

The second draft of the Central Orange County Integrated Regional and Coastal Water Management Plan (Plan) has been completed. Copies have been distributed to stakeholders. (Two copies are attached for your use). The appendices include twelve sections, however, these have not yet been reproduced or distributed.

The Plan includes:

- a careful explanation on how the regional and local objectives are accomplished with the Vision of re-establishing a balanced hydrologic system,
- an extensive discussion of our understanding of the meaning of “Integration”, and
- a preliminary list of 130 prioritized projects.

A presentation of the Plan was made to the Watershed Executive Committee (WEC) on November 19th. As directed by the WEC, there will now be a series of workshops to receive stakeholder comments and to review project scores. It is anticipated that all comments will be received by February and that a Final Plan will be submitted to the Watershed Management Committee for review in March, 2009.

The draft HAMP prepared in April 2008, is under review by Harbor Committee. Comments are expected soon and will be incorporated in the final plan in January 2009.

While good progress continues to be made on the contract tasks, a time extension to the contract to June 30, 2009 is being requested in order to provide adequate time for stakeholder review, as well as review and comments by the Watershed Management and Executive Committees.

The following summarizes important activities performed in this period. A chart showing task progress is attached. Overall contract percent complete is about 80 to 85 percent.

Status of Project Tasks

Task 2.4.2.1 Review Existing Studies and Programs

Task completed.

Task 2.4.2.2 Survey of Local Planning Efforts

Task completed. The Steering Committee has conducted small meetings with over 90 percent of the agency and environmental stakeholder groups in the watershed to ascertain local objectives and watershed concerns.

Task 2.4.2.3 Presentation of Findings to Watershed Strategic Committee Group and Watershed Executive Committee

Task completed. A presentation was made to the Watershed Executive Committee on November 19, 2008. The WEC has directed us to work with the stakeholders to complete this Phase of the plan and present it to the Watershed Management Committee for review.

Task 2.4.2.4 Preparation of Policy and Prioritization Guidelines

Task completed. The second draft of Plan has been completed and distributed. The Plan includes extensive discussion of water management policy (Chapters 2 and 4) and prioritization (Chapter 11). Stakeholders are reviewing the Plan and will provide comments.

Task 2.4.2.5 GIS Subcommittee

No additional progress on this task during the last period.

Task 2.4.2.6 GIS Database Expansion

No additional progress on this task during the last period.

Task 2.4.2.7 Web Site Development

The S4S website has been extensively refurbished. We are now actively working stakeholders to see if the website proves useful.

Task 2.4.3.1 Lower Newport Bay Management Plan

The draft HAMP is under review by the Harbor Commission. The consultants are working on the technical appendices.

The schedule calls for presentation of the HAMP to the Harbor Commission. After review, the Commission will provide direction for revisions to the draft. After the revisions are approved, the HAMP will be presented to the Council in early in 2009 for consideration.

Task 2.4.3.2 Upper Newport Bay Management Plan

The upper bay plan is included as part of the Plan includes over 20 proposed projects for Upper Newport Bay.

A contract was award in December 2007 to the Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends to prepare a Comprehensive Resource Plan that will be incorporated into the Water Management Plan.

Task 2.4.3.3 – Newport Bay/San Diego Creek Watershed Strategic Plan

In Chapter 10 of the second draft Plan, local objectives for the six planning areas of our watershed are stated. Key and supporting projects have been identified to support these local objectives. This provides a strategic skeleton for each planning area that will be fleshed out in subsequent revision of this Plan .

Task 2.4.3.4 - Integrated Regional and Coastal Water Management Plan

The second draft of the Water Management Plan has been prepared and two copies sent to your office. A series of workshops will be held to receive comments which will be incorporated in the final Plan. At the time, work plans for the key projects will be prepared, as well as the Master Schedule.

Budget

An invoice for the latest period is being prepared and should be received by your office in the next two weeks.

Attachments:

- Two copies of the Central Orange County Integrated Regional and Coastal Water Management Plan – 2nd draft
- Task Progress Chart